



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Medicinal plants of the Philippines.¹

AS INDICATED in the translator's preface, the book is primarily intended to facilitate the study of the native medicinal plants by the numerous medical officers stationed at small posts throughout the Philippines, but it will also prove of great value to botanists everywhere, and particularly to pharmaceutical botanists. The style of the book is simple and very interesting, with an occasional quaint comment. For example, under tobacco, the author says, "The robust who smoke and drink to excess and meet with an accidental death on a railroad or from an acute disease that overtakes them in the midst of robust health, serve as arguments for the defenders (of the tobacco habit) to prove the innocence of the custom." And again, "The antiseptic power of tobacco is undoubted, but it is intolerable that a physician under the pretext of avoiding self-infection should enter the house of his patient and continue smoking at the bedside." As the author admits, much of the information regarding medicinal properties of plants and plant parts is obtained from the Filipino herb doctors (*curanderos*). The common native names are given. The botanical descriptions are simple and quite brief.

The book is timely, and it will assist American botanists to acquaint themselves with the flora of their new possessions.—ALBERT SCHNEIDER.

Trees in winter.

THE reviewing of so-called popular scientific books is usually unpleasant, because one has so often to say disagreeable things; but in this instance the task is quite the reverse. Miss Huntington's *Studies of trees in winter*² will certainly aid very materially in developing a love for nature study.

The book is unique in that it is a guide for the study of our more common trees in a season which, though popularly supposed unsuitable for a study of plants, is one that, as the book shows, has certain very marked advantages. The absence of foliage brings out much more clearly the tree habit, bark

¹ PARDO DE TAVERA, T. H.—The medicinal plants of the Philippines, translated from the Spanish into English by Jerome B. Thomas, Jr., captain and assistant surgeon, U. S. A. 8vo, pp. 269. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co. 1901. \$2.00.

² ANNIE OAKES HUNTINGTON: *Studies of trees in winter*. 8vo, xviii + 198 pages, 75 full page half-tone illustrations and colored plates and text cuts. Boston: Knight & Millet. 1902. \$2.50.

characteristics, and other details more or less obscured during the summer months. As Sargent says in his introduction to this work, "For the student of trees searching for accurate knowledge it is as important to study trees in winter as in summer." While the book has undoubted scientific value, its great value will lie in its bringing many into a little closer touch with nature.

The half-tone illustrations from actual photographs are remarkably good, bringing out details very clearly, for which no doubt the publishers deserve much credit. The colored plates, in so far as I am able to judge, are true to nature. Print, paper, and binding leave nothing to be desired.—ALBERT SCHNEIDER.

Cellulose.

IN 1895 Cross and Bevan published a large work under the title *Cellulose, an outline of the chemistry of the structural elements of plants*. Although that work was especially intended for chemists, it proved of assistance to physiologists who were concerned with this substance in its structural relations to have the chemical data brought together in a connected way. The same authors now issue a work entitled *Researches on cellulose, 1895-1900*,³ which is intended as a supplement to the former one. It gives a brief account of those researches which have been published between the dates named, as well as certain of the authors' own investigations not previously published. No attempt has been made to give the subject-matter the form of a connected record. The papers are presented in abstracts, some very brief, some much longer, but all without comment. The book serves well to show the direction in which investigation is proceeding, and also the advances made in technical application of chemical knowledge. It would be well for botanists to familiarize themselves more thoroughly with the chemistry of cellulose. We should then hear less about the cell wall being "composed of cellulose," which, from a chemical point of view, tells as little about it as to say that a house is built of stone tells of its materials or its architecture. The investigations into the cellulose of fungi, the hemicelluloses, lignocelluloses, and pecto-celluloses are contributions to plant physiology as well as to chemistry. In spite of its technical character the book is one which botanical libraries should have.—C. R. B.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS.

V. K. CHESNUT⁴ has published a very full account of the plants used by the Indians of Mendocino county, California. The numbers of plants used, and the uses to which they were put, are amazing to those not familiar with the subject.—J. M. C.

³ CROSS, C. F. and BEVAN, E. J.: *Researches on cellulose, 1895-1900*. 8vo, pp. xii + 180. London, New York, and Bombay: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1901.

⁴ Contrib. U. S. Nat. Herb. 7: 295-408. *pls.* 10-21. 1902.